NCEC THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

RESOLUTION ON EAST TIMOR

WHEREAS Indonesian armed forces invaded and seized the former Portuguese colony of East Timor on December 7, 1975; and

WHEREAS the Indonesian invasion and occupation of East Timor have resulted in the death of approximately 200,000 Timorese (one-third of the population) according to Amnesty International estimates, making it the worst slaughter relative to population since the Holocaust; and

WHEREAS the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council have never recognized the Indonesian purported annexation of East Timor and have passed numerous resolutions calling for Indonesia to withdraw from East Timor; and

WHEREAS the government of Indonesia refuses to honor these United Nations resolutions, and continues to illegally occupy East Timor and to commit gross violations of human rights there; and

WHEREAS the Indonesian government has displaced Timorese families from their ancestral homes and has moved over 100,000 Indonesians into East Timor in an attempt to dilute the Timorese population and culture; and

WHEREAS many Timorese are now incarcerated in Indonesian prisons for engaging in peaceful protest against the Indonesian occupation of their country; and

WHEREAS in October 1992, the United States Congress eliminated military training (IMET) aid to the Indonesian government in response to its actions in East Timor; and

WHEREAS in March 1993, the United States government reversed its previous position and supported a strong resolution passed by the United Nations Human Rights Commission criticizing Indonesian human rights violations in East Timor; and

WHEREAS the United States government continues to sell weapons to the government of Indonesia despite its illegal and brutal occupation of East Timor; and

WHEREAS the United States government is not yet working to implement the United Nations resolutions calling for withdrawal of the Indonesian military from East Timor and for self-determination for the people of East Timor; and

RECOGNIZING our moral and religious duty to respond to acts of inhumanity and genocide and to rescue a people, a nation, and a culture from annihilation;

(over)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Northern California Ecumenical Council calls on President Bill Clinton and the U.S. Congress to take immediate administrative and legislative steps to halt all United States military aid, economic aid, and weapons sales (both commercial and government-to-government) to Indonesia until the Indonesian government:

1. Ends all forms of inhumane treatment in East Timor, including torture, extra-judicial execution, and arbitrary arrest and imprisonment;

2. Permits unrestricted access to East Timor by international human rights organizations such as Amnesty International and Asia Watch; and

3. Complies with United Nations Security Council resolutions 384 and 389, withdraws its armed forces from East Timor, and allows a United Nations supervised plebiscite in East Timor to facilitate a process of genuine decolonization and self-determination; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Secretary be instructed to immediately send copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the two U.S. Senators from California, to each Member of Congress from Northern California, and to the appropriate editors of the major newspapers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Northern California Ecumenical Council urges church leaders and congregations in Northern California to communicate the above concerns to the President and to their U.S. Senators and Members of Congress; to educate themselves about East Timor; and to work on behalf of East Timor within their own communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Northern California Ecumenical Council send this resolution to the Southern Asia Office of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA asking that human rights and justice for East Timor be promoted in their member churches.

(Adopted at the Annual Meeting of the Northern California Ecumenical Council, November 18, 1993, San Francisco, California.)

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